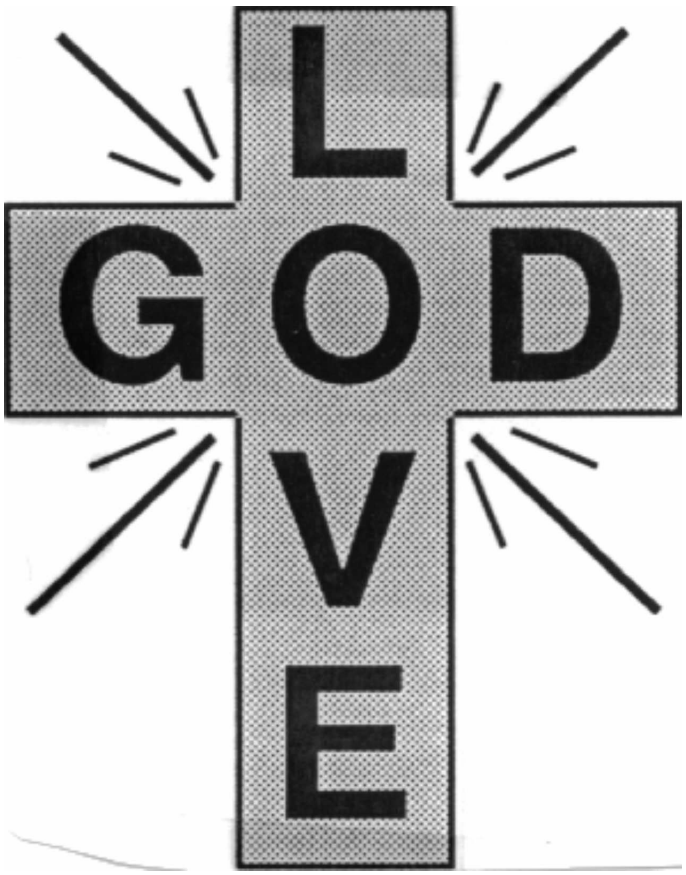
THE REAL KING LOVES ELI



By Jim Giatas

(Ages 3–5)

The Real King Loves Eli *by Jim Giatas*

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Introduction (for Ages 3–5)

Eli loves stories.
He loves dragons and pirates and brave knights who go on big adventures.
Stories make him smile, and they help him imagine wonderful things.

But sometimes, when the book closes, the characters get quiet.
They don't talk back.
They don't stay.

This story is about the day something different happened—
the day Eli heard a gentle whisper,
the day he met Someone who wasn't pretend,
the day he learned that the **Real King** loves him
and stays with him always.

This is a story for little hearts—
a story about love, comfort, and a King who never fades.

The Real King Loves Eli *by Jim Giatas*

1. Eli Loves Stories

Eli loved stories.
He loved dragons, pirates, and brave knights.
He loved to pretend.

Sometimes he wished the characters could talk to him.

2. A Quiet Day

One day, Eli opened his book.
The pictures looked sleepy.
The characters looked quiet.

Eli whispered, "Are you still there?"

But stories can't answer.

3. A Soft Whisper

Eli walked into the woods.
The trees swayed.
The wind whispered.

Then he heard it — gentle and warm.

"Eli."

Eli looked around.
"Who's calling me?"

4. The Real King

A soft light glowed.
Out stepped a **King** — kind, bright, and real.

Not pretend.
Not make-believe.
Real.

The King smiled.
"Hello, Eli."

"Are you from my story?" Eli asked.

"No," said the King.
"I am real, and I love you."

5. The King's Gift

The King knelt beside Eli.
"I will stay with you," He said.
"Even when the storybook closes."

Eli felt warm inside — like a hug from the sun.

6. Eli Smiles

The light faded, but Eli wasn't sad.
He knew the King was still with him.

When Eli opened his book again, the pictures looked bright.
But now Eli knew:

Stories are pretend.
The King is real.

And sometimes, when the wind whispered through the trees, Eli heard:

“I am here.”

And Eli smiled.